

Dear Cedric,

12/6/74

This may not get mailed until I can go to the post office, but here is my newest book. You may find it a non-book from the format.

The judge before whom all this happened is the one who yesterday ruled that Nixon's tapes that were used in court became public property. I was also before him pro se in another of my four (filed) Freedom of Information law suits. I won three. The fourth was largely responsible for the amending of the investigatory-files provision of the law on which Ford's veto was so overwhelmingly overridden.

I don't consider that I lost this one and I do consider that all the suits served socially useful purposes.

When I finally got this transcript I was almost at the end of a Watergate book that I'd have finished in about May had it not been for the other things I do and feel I must. (I'm James Earl Ray's investigator, for example, and have come up with a case that should walk him if and when we get a trial and with what has enabled the fine young lawyer who is my associate in this book/ to get a hearing just over on his rights to a trial. In that we have already established a precedent, on its way to the Supreme Court on State appeal: habeas corpus petitioners are entitled to "discovery." We discovered proof that makes the Constitutional violations in the Ellsberg case look mild. Right now I'm analyzing the State's "Memorandum" for the court on the hearing and must get it in tomorrow's mail, not much time.)

So, as all my work has had to be, this book is another quickie. Like the others it has no organized distribution. AP and UPI gave excellent A-wire treatment, with play varying widely, from being ignored to more than 40 pages on the first page of the Sacramento Bee. No TV attention. Heavy on radio, individual stations, from news beepers to hours by phone only - ~~xxx~~ can't pay for travel or ads - on talk shows. The copies we sell are by mail, sales attracted by this improvised p.r. work. Even the envelopes slow it down. The printer used the wrong size and the wrong stock - too light. But it has attracted the attention of a multi-million audience and for the first time on the subject without snide cracks from the major media, a remarkable change. In fact, the WxPost, which has been negative with very bad vibes, had a straight news story it syndicated.

Of all the things I must do without - and life is and has been hard in all senses, not only financially - I suppose I regret a decent editor most. Had a commercial publisher been willing to do his regular job on this book from the news attention alone it would have been a big success. But the curses on me are such and the attitude to the subjects on which I work involve so much publisher guilt feeling it will never happen. This adversely affects what I can produce but publication remains almost an impossibility so I investigate, write drafts, sue and go on to other work, slowed down now to close to 18 hours a day. It is accumulating and will make quite an archive. (Two university interests but no foundation support.) I've started writing on perhaps a dozen books, getting as far as I can and stopping.

There are some comforts in what may appear to be a futility and I think is not. There is satisfaction from what accomplishment is possible and from doing what others either can't or won't - at least don't. There is gratification in having some successes in exposing dirty works and anti-social and repressive officials and their acts, particularly the spooks. And I take some pride in my enemies, several of whose agents I have subverted, with proofs in hand of illicit acts against me about which when I can I'll attempt to do something.

I still remember with pleasure Sally's efforts on my behalf. She must even as a child have been a joy to you from how beautiful she was in spirit, mind and form as a young woman. Please remember me to her when you write.

We still live in isolation on five wooded acres where what exercise I get is rescuing trees from the repressive influences of honeysuckle, climbing poison and other killers. At 61 I need more exercise than I can get. Which reminds me, if it presents no real problem and involves no great cost for I'll want to repay you and if there are no customs problems, if you

ever come across a machete with a scabbard I can use one. I have an old Army surplus one that I have to carry by hand, which makes it inconvenient. It is about shot from abuse for as I take out dead and unwanted trees I go to or below ground level so I can mow over the stumps of the slow-rotting species. But please don't go to any trouble, only if you came across one, as in passing a store that sells them.

7 About a year ago I did a slight favor for the Hungarian royalist/Cuban revanchist Andy St. George. He has a collection of them and promised me one but hasn't sent it and won't. These are a strange breed. I've had much to do with many. I suppose you met specimens there.

To the best of my knowledge mine are the only works on the political assassinations still available. I receive orders daily but in small number, the only regular income I have. I have never had a penny for advertising, am listed in Books in Print, and have done the only work on the King assassination not in accord with the official mythology. (It is my poorest seller and the only one of my books to appear as a hardback with a commercial imprint. However, I could not control the promotions and before the book was published the publisher was refusing them. Fortunately I had insisted on a provision in the contract that gave me the remainders.) People have to try hard to learn of this work and then to find me, but they do. With a gratifying volume of letters of appreciation from total strangers.

Hope your follow-up book appears soon. I could not help you as you wanted with the first one but I believe what I was able to do was more helpful. If I can do anything with the sequel, please ask.

Best regards,